



WEEK  
**ONE**  
SEPTEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



### OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Trash items

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask partners to stand facing one another about six feet apart.
- Place the item of trash on the floor between partners.
- Explain that you will quickly call out a series of actions they must do such as touching their head, knees, ears, and so forth.
- When you say, "Trash!" they try to be faster than their partner to pick up the trash.
- The kid on each team who grabs it first wins that round and the other sits down.
- Choose new partners and repeat rounds until only one kid is left.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.
- Use a variety of actions and keep the game moving by calling them out quickly and in differing amounts.
  - hair
  - nose
  - armpit
  - foot
  - elbow
  - shoulder
  - knee
  - heel
  - neck
  - toes

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Makin' Plans

Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall  
Nehemiah 1:1–2:18

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What around you needs to be done?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.

Colossians 3:23a, NIV

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Picking up trash was never more fun, wouldn't you agree? You guys are really good at it—and FAST! We're not always that fast when it comes to picking up trash or doing other stuff that needs to be done. Sometimes it's just easier to walk right past it or to ignore something around us that needs to be done.

**[Transition] That's something we can change. This month we're going to learn what it looks like to take initiative. And, we're going to learn it from someone who did way more than simply pick up trash. His story is EPIC, and I can't wait for you to hear it! Let's go."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- Sometimes we ignore a job that needs to be done because it's not technically OUR responsibility—not OUR problem. Is there anything wrong with that way of thinking? Why or why not?
  - How would things be different if Jesus had taken on that way of thinking?
- When you think of people who have shown initiative (*seen what needs to be done and doing it*), who comes to mind? What do you appreciate or admire most about them? What can you learn from them?
- What can you do if you see something that needs to be done but you don't know what to do? How can you figure out where to start?

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### MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



### VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, note cards, pens

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to look up Colossians 3:23a.
- Hand out the note cards and pens.
- Appoint one of the kids to slowly say the verse as kids write it out on their cards. (The kid saying the verse should also write it out.)
- Say the verse together as a group to help kids learn it. They can read it from their card if they need help.
- Challenge kids to say the verse as a group—each kid saying one word at a time.
  - The catch is that they must speak in random order, not around a circle or in any particular order.
  - If two kids speak at the same time or if there is more than a two-second pause between the words, they must start over.
  - Kids can speak as many times as they like but all kids must participate.
- Choose someone to begin and then let kids take some “calculated initiative” to recite the memory verse.
- Kids can look at their note cards if they need help remembering the verse.
- Think through the meaning of the verse.
  - In Colossians 3:23a, do you think the word *everything* literally means EVERYTHING? Explain why or why not.
  - What are some examples of the “everythings” we do?
  - How can we do each of those things as if working for the Lord?
  - What does it look like to do some of the following activities as if “working for the Lord” AND what it looks like to not?
    - school work
    - playing a sport
    - helping at home
    - going to church
    - hanging out with friends
- Remind kids that we can show initiative by stepping up to help wherever we can to get a job done. When we do it without complaining, without being asked, without applause, and without a selfish motive, we’re doing it for the Lord.

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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



### MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Ask kids to name some ways in which they can take initiative this week.
- After they have shared, suggest that prayer is an important way to show initiative. Seeing a need and praying for God's help is exactly what Nehemiah did.
- Challenge kids to put initiative into practice and lead the others in a one or two sentence prayer asking God's help this week to not only SEE a need but DO something about it.
- Close in prayer.

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

Dear God, just as Nehemiah came to You for help, we want to do the same. Help us to recognize opportunities to show initiative. When we see a need, help us to not make excuses for not helping. Instead, remind us that EVERYTHING we do can be done for You. Amen.

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